

Day 1

## South Australia Schools vs. Western Australia Schools

It was a nervous start by Western Australia but the team showed a lot of composure to finish a very tight match one point in front.

Slippery conditions never allowed the game to flow freely but it was entertaining because it was so fiercely contested.

Some of the highlights included Josh Tinomana's powerful running at outside centre and a crucial one on one tackle by Lex Kuster that snuffed out a try scoring opportunity for South Australia.

After finding themselves down 7 to nil, the boys from WA finally had some good field position and Harry Scoble scored from a driving maul set up from a lineout win close to the SA line.

SA added pressure when they scored late in the first half to extend their lead to 14 to 5.

Western Australia started the second half enthusiastically, applying enormous defensive pressure to South Australia. A charged down clearing kick led to another Harry Scoble try. In difficult conditions, the kick was unsuccessful so South Australia was still leading 14-10.

After good passages from both teams, SA again found themselves trapped in their own territory. A poor kick handed WA another attacking opportunity and winger Lex Custer shot down the right hand side of the field to score the match winning try. The conversion was unsuccessful, but WA finished the game ahead 15 to 14.

Day 2

## Western Australia Schools vs. Victorian Schools 2<sup>nd</sup> XV

Although this was a non competition game, the boys were very keen to get one up on their traditional rivals.

A very physical start saw WA control the early exchanges of the match and they drew first blood with a penalty to Jack Ellis.

Victoria responded well with a strong downfield charge and sustained pressure which eventually led to a try followed by a conversion.

The remainder of the half was fairly even and both teams had opportunities but could not capitalise.

Western Australia's made an enterprising start to the second half, playing with impressive intensity and moving the ball wide.

The Victorian number 8 made a damaging run and looked as though he was going to make it all the way but Isaiah Rehutai cut that raid short with a fantastic cover tackle.

Momentum seemed to shift in WA's favour from that point. A huge clearing kick and good chase put a lot pressure on Victoria and resulted in Western Australia being awarded a scrum five metres out from Victoria's line. The backs hit the ball up in the centre field. Then Western Australia came back down the blind side and a cut out pass saw prop Hemi Tuiavii score the match winning try in the corner.

Day 3

## **Lloyd McDermott Rugby Development Team vs. Western Australia Schools**

Western Australia had devised a game plan intended to nullify the unpredictability of the Lloydies team and capitalise on our own lineout strength. Unfortunately, we lacked the discipline to put the plan into effect and were taught a rugby lesson.

Lloyd McDermott started well, rumbling it up in the forwards which paved the way for their backs. They scored tries in quick succession and led 17 to nil at half time.

Western Australia was more focused in the second half and restricted the Lloydies team to one try.

The final score was 22 – 0 in favour of Lloyd McDermott.

Day 4

## Western Australia Schools vs. Northern Territory Schools

The boys bounced back from their last start loss to produce a great team effort against Northern Territory. The team demonstrated the right mix of patience to create opportunities and the flair to seize them. The 34 to 12 score line flattered NT in the end.

The forwards, growing in stature as the championship went on, controlled the breakdown and provided plenty of quality ball for the backs to convert into tries, as well as scoring some themselves. Matt Monteath and Connor McDougal both rumbled over for five pointers.

Beau Reilly capitalised on a defensive lapse to scurry over in close but there were also gaps out wide. Lex Kuster scored a double and Luke Burton crossed the line as well. Luke Burton and Jack Ellis each added a conversion to the team tally.

The performance was a great way to finish the championship. It was just reward for the hard work of the players and the coaches for the past 10 weeks.

Apart from their pleasing performances on field, the boys should be congratulated for the way they carried themselves for the duration of the championships. They drew many compliments for their conduct and they were wonderful ambassadors for their state.